



*The following resolution was approved for inclusion in the Policy Index of the Mansfield Town Council on June 8, 2009. The information was presented in a letter to Mansfield Advisory Groups and staff from Mayor Elizabeth Paterson and Town Manager Martin Berliner on February 3, 2000.*

“In conjunction with its review of the various responsibilities and roles of the Town’s numerous elected and appointed commissions, committees and staff members, Mansfield’s Town Council has discussed the issue of who should speak for the Town of Mansfield. We are fortunate to have many dedicated citizens serving on our boards and committees and a qualified and supportive staff, but it can be counter-productive to the Town’s overall interest to have multiple opinions communicated to individuals or agencies outside of the Town’s collective organization. On a number of recent occasions, letters have been sent by appointed advisory boards to State elected and appointed officials and private businesses. Some of the positions expressed in these letters have been inconsistent with the position of the Town Council. This situation has led to confusion over the Town’s position on an issue of town-wide importance.

To address this issue, the Town Council, as Mansfield’s elected policy board, has agreed to request that all advisory boards and staff members submit comments or concerns on issues of town-wide importance to the Town Council or Town Manager and not to State or private parties. We value your input and all comments and recommendations will be considered in developing policy positions for the Town. As private citizens, you of course, retain your right to speak your mind. When you do so, please ensure that you are speaking as an individual, not as a representative of the Town of Mansfield.”